[This transcript was created by LAI staff. It is as true a representation of the original as we could create. When a word was too difficult to decipher or was questionable we put those words in brackets. All text in brackets represents the voice of the transcriber rather than the voice of the letter writer. We have not maintained the spacing that exists in the original letters because that was not compliant with our accessibility standards. We are left justifying most lines.]

[citation information]
Collection title: Corcoran Gallery of Art and Corcoran College of Art + Design, Corcoran Gallery of Art directors' records
collection number: COR-0002-0-RG
Series 1: MacLeod, Barbarin and McGuire records
Subseries 1: Indexed correspondence
Box 2008-001
Folder 17: Letters 161-169

[Front of letter 161]
Hebert Mrs. P.L.
Bayou Goula P.O. December 24, 1873
Jany 3/74
Offers a statue of the Christian Martyr for sale
Declined - written too

[Letter 161]

[Letter embossed with decorative figure]
Bayou Goula, P.O., La
December 24, 1873

Mr. W.W. Corcoran
Washington, D.C.

My Dear Sir,

Seeing by the papers that you have established an art gallery in the city of Washington and that you are trying to purchase fine pictures and statuary to place in your “Art Gallery”, I take the liberty of writing to you and offering you a very beautiful statue of the “Christian Martyr” which took the prize at the “Worlds Fair” in Naples in 1859. It is a girl of about sixteen, perfect in size and shape. She is chained to a rock, her face is very perfect and beautiful - stamped with Christian resignation.

I would be pleased to hear from you in regard to this matter, when you may find it convenient to write.

I had the pleasure of Mess Eustis acquaintance some years ago. Her father, the Judge, inaugurated my husband as Gov of the State of Louisiana in 1853.

I am with much respect your obedient servant
Mrs. P.L. Hebert

[Letter 162]

Spartanburg South Carolina
24 Decr 1873

Mr. Hyde
Secretary of Corcoran's Art Gallery

Sir,

Your note in reply to mine addressed to Mr. Corcoran in reference to a statuette carved by an artist of this state, was received about the time of the sad death of Mr. [Bestor?]; and [illegible] the shock, if not actual distress, it must have cost you, I have refrained from writing out of respect to your feelings, until they were by time, some what accustomed to the sad event.

Such things, and indeed all [illegible], should have the effect of making us more thoughtful of our fellow beings, more careful in matters of justice, more tender in those of feeling.

I did not understand from your note whether or not "the Art Committee" had seen the statuette, or indeed that you had seen it yourself. I hope sir; if they had not that you will now have it placed before them, with as little prejudice as if your own Daughter were the sculptor.

If the gentlemen who was purchasing in Europe for the Gallery, this summer, has returned, and after examining this statuette will say "it is not worth purchasing" of course that will be final, as far as the Corcoran Gallery is concerned, and you will oblige me by retaining it until sent for by order.

I did not see Mrs. Ream when it was left at her Studio. I was not taken North for sale, but for exhibition in N.Y. through "the New York Park", but not going to NY and learning where in W. of the [anxiety?] of the artist to produce a garden chair for a dear invalid relative. I determined to make the sacrifice of the statuette, if thereby her wish could be gratified.

The statuette has been pronounced a “work of true art, and very uncommercial” by those who would be esteemed judges of art, wherever it is indentured. Mrs. Ada Sims is a Lady, by birth, education, and nurture, and her [laments?] are such that the Corcoran Art Gallery might one day be [illegible] to have appreciated them.

Hoping Sir that you will feel at least a kindly interest in this work of art, for arts sake, and at least judge it without preconceived prejudice.

I am Sir your very respectfully
Mrs. Mary, Owen, Dean

[Back of Letter 162]
Dean. Mrs. Mary Owen
Spartanburg S.C. Dec 24/73
Recvd Dec 27/73
With regard to the purchase of Miss Ada Sims Statuette of “Uncle Johnny”
Declined and written to

[Letter 163]

[Letterhead of M. Knoedler and Company, 170 Fifth Avenue, New York, November 19, 1873

Mr. Wm. MacLeod Washington D.C.

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 18th [inst?] is at hand. We have two different sizes and kinds of photographs of “La mort de Caesar”. Colored we have one at $15.- and an other at $10. Plain, same size as the colored, $5..00 and $3.00.

Hoping soon to be favored with your order we remain

Respectfully yours
MKnoedler and Co
Roland Knoedler

[Back of letter 163]
Knoedler and Company ([late?] Goupils) New York, [Nov 10/74?]
Giving price of photographs of Death of Caesar

[Letter 164]

[Letterhead of J.F. Cake. Willard's Hotel, Washington, D.C., December 17, 1873

Anthony Hyde, Esq.
Secretary Corcoran Gallery of Arts, Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

I beg to call your attention to the enclosed circular and testimonials relating to the Garner Fire Extinguisher, and respectfully suggest its adoption for the protection of the valuable property in the Gallery against fire. The valuable collection of works of art contained in the Gallery is highly esteemed by the citizens of the District and of the whole country. The machine is simple in its construction and under the numerous tests has always found to be reliable. It is in use in all the public libraries of Philadelphia, the U.S. Mint and a number of Government buildings. Two machines will afford ample protection to the property in the Gallery. The Company charge $50. For the plain copper and $60. For the nickel-plated machine. This latter is ornamental and presenting a handsome appearance can be placed in any part of the building. An order made upon the President of Secretary of the Company at 1306 Chestnut Street Phila. Will be promptly attended to.

Very Respectfully, Your Obedient Servant,
J.E. Peyton

[Back of letter 164]
Peyton, J.E. Washington Dec 17/73
Received Dec 17/73
Enclosing circular of Gardners Fire Extinguisher
Laid on the table
[Circular and further information of The Gardner Fire Extinguisher enclosed]

[Letter 165]

Washington, D.C., 2 January 1874

To The Trustees of "The Corcoran Art Gallery"

Gentlemen,

Your attention is invited to the “frontispiece” the lion’s head directly over the entrance to the Art Building, for the purpose of having it removed or altered.

For it is not a design adapted for the entrance of a building devoted to the muses. It might be well placed over the entrance to the new building of the War Department. [Altho’ “grim visaged war now smooth’s his ruffled front”?], but if you desire to have some other design in place of the lion, some artist can be found in this city who could alter it, to an inviting and pleasing countenance.

Respectfully yours,
Cosmopolite

[Back of letter 165]
Cosmopolite January 2, 1874
January 2, 1874
Says “Frontispiece” of building should be changed.

[Letter 166]

Bierstadt A. [Waterville?] NY. Jany 7., /74
Letter to Prof. Henry offering his picture of “Mr. Adams” for sale and enclosing an order upon Mr. Morrell for [iv?]
[Fair?] order to Mr. MacLeod made 16/74

Waterville, [Ineida?] Co., N.Y. Jan 7th 1874

Prof. Henry,

My Dear Sir:

I have a picture in Washington which I would like placed in the Corcoran Art Gallery and would be still better pleased if the committee would purchase it for that institution for which purpose I would be willing to sell it at less than half my usual price.

The picture is more suited for a gallery than a private house being quite large. The canvas measuring seven feet long and with the frame, making nearly nine feet.

The scene represented is Mr. Adams on the Columbia River, Oregon. I have received as high as fifteen thousand dollars for such a picture and for my larger one as high as thirty. But as I wrote Mr. Walters in Baltimore will sell this to the gallery for five thousand dollars. You may rest

assured I shall appreciate any kindness in this direction on your part. With the compliments of the season, I remain

Sincerely Yours
A. Bierstadt

P.S. I enclose an order for the picture, and even if not bought by the committee would like it exhibited then for the present.

[Enclosed letter from A. Morrell]

Washington Jan [11th?] 1873

To Trustees Corcoran Gallery of Art Georgetown

Gentlemen

I send you this day Albert Bierstadt's celebrated picture of [illegible] Adams from the mouth of Columbia River for exhibition trusting you will approve of the same.

Yours Very Truly
A. Morrell
908 F Street

[Back of Letter 166]
Bierstadt A. Waterville, NY
Jan 7. 74
Enclosing order for his picture of "Mr. Adams" in [pop?] [of?] Mr. Morrell - wants to sell it to Corcoran Gallery
Referred to Mr. Hyde

[Letter 166 ½]

[illegible] extra Battery can be loaned for tonight to the Theatre to Mr. [J?] [Lockhead?], he [illegible] Bogart being responsible for its safe restoration to its place.

Keep item [illegible] dispatch from Mr. Bogart.

Jan [6?]/74
A. Hyde

[?Barbarin?]
[?.?.A.]
Jany 6, 1874 [illegible] PM

[Back of letter 166 ½ on Corcoran Gallery of Art lettercard]
Bogart
Battery loaded to National Theater Jany 6, 1874
[Enclosed with letter is telegraph tickertape from A.L. Bogart]

[Front of Letter 167]
Miller S.C. Jany 10, 1874
Jany 13, 1874
Seeks employment

[Letter 167]

Washington Jany 10th 1874

Mr. Hyde
Dear Sir

I see by this mornings star that you are the chairman of a committee to make arrangements for the opening of the “Corcoran Art Gallery”.

My object in writing is to ask if there is any probability of any ladies being employed in any capacity in the building. If so, I should like very much to get something to do. I could furnish unexceptionable references. I am the widow of Michel H. Miller of this city, with whom I think you were acquainted, either in connection with the Bible Society or the Public Schools.

Upon the death of my husband nearly eight years ago I was left with a family of six entirely dependent upon me.

Please be kind enough, to let me know if there will be any use to apply for work. I can write plainly and very rapidly, and am particularly orderly in my work.

This is not a specimen of my hand writing, I have just recovered from a violent headache and cannot control my pen.

Very respectfully
Sallie C. Miller

939 M St N.W.

[Front of letter 168]
Colburn [Dr.?] G.T.[G?] January 10./74
Jany 11/74
Offers his services gratuitously to the Corcoran Gallery of Art

[letter seems to be incomplete]

[Letter 168]

the Patent Office having been awarded [some?] [?o] patents for inventions in general use I have also had the experience of travel over a large portion of the world and have recently returned from an extended tour of Europe undertaken for the purpose of paying particular attention to [illegible] treasures and antiquities.

A desire of being of use to you in your enterprise has led me to take this method of introducing myself a stranger to your notice having recently purchased a residence in your city for my future home my time being unoccupied. I would cheerfully tender my services such as they might be towards carrying out your noble enterprise G

[Letter 169]

[Letter on back of United States Postal Card]
Cooke, Hon. H.D. [G?] H.D.G. Jany 11./74
Jany 12/74
Will not be able to attend meeting of the Board. Absent in N.Y.

Dear Sir,

In [illegible] absence your communication has been recd, and I have to state that he will not return from N.Y. in time to attend the meeting Jany 12th.

Resp.,
H.D. Cooke

[Front of United States Postal Card posted to P.S. Barbarin, Assistant Secretary, Corcoran Art Gallery, Washington, D.C.]